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REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Letter dated 1 September 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 9 September 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning Turkish military aggression and violations of the sovereignty of the Republic of Iraq. These make it clear that the Government of Turkey wishes to occupy Iraqi territory and establish so-called "security zones" there.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex, the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 11 of the provisional agenda of the fifty-first session.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 9 September 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the Turkish military aggression and violations of the sovereignty of the Republic of Iraq, which demonstrate the determination of the Turkish Government to occupy Iraqi territory and establish so-called 'security zones' there. They have also positioned a large number of armed forces along the so-called 'temporary danger zone'.

These provocative Turkish acts are not performed in isolation, but are clearly supported by the United States of America. The Universal Press news agency published statements made by the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Warren Christopher, on 7 September 1996 to a number of reporters who were accompanying him on his European tour. He said that the Turks had good reason to be concerned about their borders, and that the Turkish authorities had informed the United States of America that this security zone inside Iraqi territory would be temporary.

Such frankly hostile statements and attitudes demonstrate to the whole international community and the United Nations the extent of the United States of America's contempt for the provisions and principles of international law and for the sovereignty and independence of States. Not content with stepping up its threats and daily acts of provocation against the Iraqi people, it is encouraging other States and factions to follow in its footsteps and take up practices which are entirely foreign to the spirit of lawful international relations.

While urging the United Nations to do whatever is necessary to put an end to these acts of aggression that threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, the Iraqi Government holds the Government of the United States of America fully accountable for the consequences of its hostile and unlawful acts against Iraq and its security, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Furthermore, the Iraqi Government reserves the right to take any steps it deems necessary to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and to ensure the safety of its people in the face of the hostile American policy.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 11 and 51 of the provisional agenda of the fifty-first session.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq